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**TWO STOCKTON MEN SENTENCED FOR
DISTRIBUTING HEROIN**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Jose Beltran Castro (23) and Roberto Antonio Beltran (25), of Stockton were sentenced today by United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr., to 65 months and 51 months, respectively, in federal prison. Defendant Jose Beltran Casto pleaded guilty on August 5, 2004 to distribution of heroin. Defendant Roberto Antonio Beltran pleaded guilty on August 9, 2004 to distribution of heroin.

The sentencing concluded a heroin investigation/prosecution that began in May of 2003 by the Stockton Police Department, San Joaquin County's METRO Narcotics Task Force, the Immigration and Custom Enforcement Agency (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The case involved numerous undercover buys of multi-ounce quantities of brown-tar heroin by an undercover Stockton Police Officer. As part of the investigation, over 2 pounds of heroin were either purchased or seized as part of the investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Richard J. Bender, who prosecuted the case, all together, six persons were prosecuted in the investigation with all defendants pleading guilty to distributing various quantities of heroin or aiding and abetting others to distribute

heroin:

<u>Name & age</u>	<u>Date of Sentencing</u>	<u>Federal Prison Sentence received</u>
Jose Beltran (49)	Oct. 4, 2004	120 months
Cruz Valenzuela Beltran (23)	Oct. 25, 2004	72 months
Mirella Felix Zamudio (21)	Oct. 25, 2004	60 months
Jose Beltran Castro (23)	Nov. 1, 2004	65 months
Roberto Antonio Beltran (25)	Nov. 1, 2004	51 months

All of the defendants also received a term of supervised release of four or five years, which term commences upon their release from federal prison. A juvenile was also prosecuted in federal court as part of the investigation.

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